

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 22-24 and 27-31 are all of the claims pending in the application. Claims 9 and 25 have been editorially amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 9-11, 14, 18-21 and 25-26 have been canceled. Claims 27-31 have been added to claim additional features of the invention and to provide more varied protection of the claimed invention.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 9-11, 14, 25 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pokhodenko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,397,922) (hereinafter "Pokhodenko"). Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pokhodenko.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-8 and 22-24 are allowed. Applicants submit, however, that all of claims 1-11, 14 and 18-26 are allowable over the cited prior art references. However, merely in an effort to speed prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 9-11, 14, 18-21 and 25-26. Applicants respectfully submit that cancellation of these claims places the Application in a condition for allowance.

New claims 27-31 are added to provide more varied protection for the present invention and to claim additional features of the invention. These claims are independently patentable because of the novel features recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the new claims are patentable over any combination of the applied references at least for analogous reasons to those set forth above with respect to claims 1-8 and 22-24.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 22-24 and 27-31, all of the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the

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above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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